THE NEWS BULLETIN

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA

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Change and Decay or Change and Live

Have we the will?

Many years ago H. G. Wells made one of his periodic forays into the future in a short story called, "The Time Machine." He found that the human race had completely conquered nature, was emancipated from struggle, danger and work, and as a consequence had become hopelessly degenerate, feeble, and stupid.

Moralizing on this unexpected result, Mr. Wells says: "Strength is the outcome of need. Security sets a premium on feebleness."

"What, unless biological science is a mass of errors, is the cause of human intelligence and vigor, hardship and freedom; conditions under which the active, strong and subtle survive, and the weak go to the wall; conditions that put a premium upon the loyal alliance of capable men, upon self-restraint, patience and decision."

In the midst of social, political, and economic change, the Young Men's Christian Association will either perish with the conditions which called it forth or will adapt itself to meet the needs of a new age. The rigor of the struggle in which humanity is now engaged is a challenge and an opportunity. Life is in the making, and if our Movement has the vision to see the next steps toward the Kingdom, and the courage to follow even in the face of risk and danger, it will go on from strength to strength. These are the days when we need the "loyal alliance of capable men, self-restraint, patience, and decision."

The Boards of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. include the most progressive, socially-minded, and effective citizens in the larger cities and towns of Canada. In the secretariat we have a large number of skilled organizers and promoters, leaders of social and religious education. What a wonderful thing it would be if we could get this leadership, now scattered across the continent and only half awake to the possibilities of this Association, gathered together for a period of fellowship in prayer and thought. Who can estimate the positive programs for united action, which would flow from such a gathering dedicated to the development of Christlike personality and to a Christlike society in our world and in our day! We have all the conditions of growth, power, and usefulness. Have we the will to face hardship and sacrifice, to dare new and untried paths to freedom and service?

Three Concerns for '33

We have made considerable progress in carrying forward the mandates of the World Conference and the International Convention at Cleveland toward programs of social education,—political, international, and economic. Nevertheless, we have scarcely scratched the surface of the possibilities of the Association in meeting the needs of our members and of our communities for clear, balanced, fearless, and impartial leadership in this field. In many of our cities little or nothing has been done to help the youth of our land to choose between the wild idealism of impractical dreamers and the pathetic stupidity and inertia of those who cling to the past with no remedy for discontent except the iron heel of police and military repression. We need to explore this whole area of Christian social education to see ourselves as mediators between the technical skill and knowledge of experts and the young men of business, finance, and industry. We are facing a real crisis and need well-informed, non-partisan leadership.

We are also in need of a careful review of our function as leaders of Christian recreation. We pioneered in this field, and we still have a leading place in planning and promoting the play life of our people, but a new world is opening before us with enormously increased leisure time for all classes. Have we the vitality and leadership to carry us forward into this new day? We have scarcely begun to develop the higher and more artistic elements of recreation—music, painting, sculpture, poetry, drama, aesthetic dancing. All of these creative experiences are within our reach, but most of our Associations stick slavishly to the routines of physical activities invented by pioneering spirits thirty years ago. Not that we have exhausted the service or educational possibilities of the Gym and the Pool. They still have their

place; but we no longer have a monopoly on them and should press on to wider fields and higher levels.

The third area of program concern at this time is around the problem of personal commitment. The Y.M.C.A. was first established as an expression of lay religion for this purpose One of its greatest contributions has been its witnessing to the power of Jesus Christ to redeem individual lives from selfishness, aimlessness, from evil habits of thought and action through the "expulsive power of a new affection." Yet it must be confessed that in recent years we have not had adequate emphasis on personal consecration, on devotional practices, or on efforts to secure definite commitments to Jesus Christ and His Way of Life. There are many reasons for this, but the need is as real as ever. We cannot expect social changes requiring tremendous sacrifice on the part of privileged groups until we have individual leaders in these groups ready to surrender everything and devote themselves wholly to the building of a Christian Society—the Kingdom of God on earth. The visit to Canada of the Oxford Groups under the leadership of Dr. Frank Buchman is a challenge to every Association to examine its own life and to review its efforts in this neglected but all-important aspect of the development of Christian personality.

Body, Mind and Spirit

Here then are three major problems of Association program. They represent the subject matter of our three schools of Couchiching this summer. The Institute on Economics and Politics will meet July 31 to August 12; the Conference on Religion will meet August 12 to 19; and the School of Recreation will be held August 19 to September 2. Special sessions for Y.M.C.A. laymen will be held over the week-ends, and it is hoped that every Y.M.C.A. secretary will plan to attend at least one of these schools. No Association can afford to live unto itself in days like these. The schools will provide practical and inspirational guidance as well as technical knowledge for all those who are seeking to improve the standard of their Association program.

As a preparation for these schools and as a means of interesting local Associations in the problems with which they will deal, it has been suggested that we should use these topics as major items of concern in the Regional Conferences to be held during the winter and spring. The Executive Committee has recommended that four Regional Conferences be held in lieu of an Annual Meeting—one in Ontario and Quebec in the latter part of February; one in British Columbia in April; one in the prairie provinces in April; one in the Maritimes in May. If we can secure a real cross section of the lay leadership of each Association at these Regional Conferences we ought to be able to carry the Association forward into next year's work with a clearer vision, better understanding, and a real devotion to the cause for which we stand.

E. M. B.

MONEY OR MANHOOD; WHICH FIRST?

Viewed realistically the main problem of all local Association problems in 1933 is that of financing, and lay as well as Secretarial leaders are confronted with a situation that is perplexing and baffling.

No "easy way" presents itself as a solution. Confidence in the Association's supreme value in the community and courageous action involving reasonable budget provision to ensure that the work is effectively carried on, accompanied by first-class administration methods and policies, are essential in weathering the stormy conditions.

The tendency is for each unit to think not only primarily but perhaps exclusively of its own welfare and while solutions with respect thereof may be discovered they will not be sufficient without recognition of a common responsibility toward the present financial status of the Canadian movement as a whole. We do not mean to infer that there should be an actual pooling of dollars by all local organizations in behalf of one another, but sympathetic understanding and mental and spiritual "sharing" of this problem in the life of our movement represents the very highest Christian philosophy and is the most constructive attitude to assume in surmounting this high and rough mountain of financial difficulty.

This article was not intended to be a plea for support of the National Council but since we have introduced the principle of "corporate responsibility" it is not beside the question to call attention to the necessity of universal financial support by all local Associations and to point out that if for any reason it is not forth-coming, the national movement may become powerless to improve conditions. If the machinery set up to provide emergency co-operation and assistance breaks down the Council will become impotent to give help at such times and in such places as most needed Also in such circumstances the opportunity and obligation to spread the work to new places, which is a mark of vitality, is likewise abrogated.

It is an elementary principle of sound business practice that careful and thorough planning should be pursued by using every endeavour through old and new methods to bring income up to the highest possible level and to keep expenditures down to the lowest figure by the exercise of rigid economy.

Our ingenuity is challenged as perhaps never before to secure increases in receipts by membership fee adjustments, a vigorous and continuous policy of dormitory occupancy, a well conducted annual campaign for subscription support and also developing new or revised plans to secure additional revenue

by such mediums as circuses, hobby shows, summer fairs, dramatics, etc. On the other hand our wisdom and insight is put to the test in curtailing expenditures so that all factors will be conserved and not result in destroying "the goose that lays the golden egg" or, put in another way, go to such extremes in providing merely a skeleton programme with an inadequately manned leadership that the organization will ultimately die for lack of oxygen.

Should the Association go into debt in its operations for 1933 is a question that interested laymen and secretaries all over Canada are just now asking, and if we are justified in doing so, to what extent is it good business and good strategy? There are plenty who will claim that budgets must balance and, with reasonable mental reservations, most leaders will agree with this policy However, there are signs that a panicky and fearful attitude of mind is becoming dominant. Good business should mark our management of Association affairs but we are not a business institution whose primary objective is material profits and the results obtained through our service of completely or partially changing the outlook. motivation and objectives of boys and men is not only worth risking incurring deficits, but is at the same time the justification for doing so and our future protection for such personalities guarantee the right kind of leadership in years to come.

If budgets can be balanced by a system of reducing all expenditure items and increasing the leadership responsibility so that our Christian education programme is maintained to the degree that character results are constantly maintained. well and good, but if such reductions obstruct in whole or in part the stream of ideas, instruction and services to boys and men, "breaking even" is only the prelude to decay and death.

Idealism that academically or theoretically advocates going blindly forward without facing facts and hard-boiled realism that demands every dollar be pre-provided or definitely assured are both extreme views, and the absolute adoption of either would result in a loss of both human and Divine confidence. A combination of both these attitudes and outlooks is needed today wherein shall be clearly recognized the incalculable and invisible character assets of what the Association accomplishes together with best qualities of business management and executive practices, the merger resulting perhaps in finding ways of "making two blades of grass grow where only one grew before."

We have no doubt whatever but that this year will be a more serious one in which to make financial ends meet than in 1932 or preceding ones, and we believe that as we have a trust to guard we will need to pinch every dollar in order to keep our financial affairs sound and solvent, but the element of Christian faith, confidence and courage should have a significant place in our planning with a reasonable belief and trust in the guiding hand and tremendous resources inherent in our country, our people and in Almighty God.

H. B.

A Pilgrimage to Palestine to attend the dedication services of the new Y.M.C.A. building at Jerusalem is being organized by the International Committee. Two personally conducted groups sail from New York in March and go by different routes to arrive at Jerusalem about the tenth of April, and to be back in New York early in May. All-inclusive rates of $725.00 and $550.00 (U.S.) for 57 days are offered. A descriptive folder can be had by writing the Tour Director, Mr. J. C. Clark, 347 Madison Ave., New York City.

SASKATOON Y.M.C.A. LEADER AWARDED HEROIC SERVICE MEDALLION

The National Y.M.C.A. Physical Education Committee awarded the Heroic Service Medallion to Stuart W. Dewar, of Saskatoon, for saving a fourteen-year-old boy, Marshall Ayers, from drowning last summer.

The following account by an eye-witness—H. E. Hodges, a Saskatoon school teacher—gives a graphic outline of the incident:

"Having witnessed the life saving and resuscitation work performed by Stuart Dewar of this city in the rescue of Fred Ayers from drowning at Beaver Creek on Sunday, June 12th, 1932, I do not hesitate in commending the act as one worthy of recognition.

"The near-drowning occurred at a point where the creek drains into the Saskatchewan River. The water at this point was very muddy and I would judge to be about ten feet in depth. Access to the edge of the creek at this point could only be made by descending a steep bank which took one to the water's edge.

"Dewar, who was not among the bathers, hearing the cry for help, went to the assistance of a group of companions of Ayers who themselves were unable to give any aid. Without taking time to remove any of his clothing, he dived into the creek bringing Ayers to the surface. Before resuscitation methods could be applied it was necessary to pull Dewar and the victim up the steep embankment where alone there was available space to carry on the work. A group of onlookers were able to assist in bringing the two up the bank and Dewar immediately resorted to First Aid methods The application of First Aid was necessary for a period of from ten to fifteen minutes to revive Ayers.

"Without the timely arrival of Stuart Dewar and his quick action in rescuing and administering of First Aid treatment the victim, Fred Ayers, in my opinion would not have been recovered alive.

Yours truly,

Harold E. Hodges,

Teacher, Saskatoon Public Schools."

Stuart is one of Jimmy West's Leaders' Corps and his life saving skill was developed in the 'Y' tank Alex. Dewar, Assistant Physical Director, is an older brother.

The Committee considered this to be a very meritorious case. Only four other similar awards have been made in recent years. Such cases are strong

evidence of the importance of the extensive life saving and swimming programmes of the Y.M.C.A. throughout Canada. In 1932, 350 life saving certificates were awarded.

E. D. O.

EXPERIENCES IN CURRENT EXPENSE CAMPAIGNS

Results obtained this fall by local Associations in securing subscriptions are very encouraging and, in some instances at least, remarkable.

It is evident by their response that the public in Association centres regard the community service of the Association as significant and indispensable in times like these. The idea oftentimes held in more prosperous periods that the Association is a worthwhile Club, is being replaced among thoughtful people by a belief that it is a movement which not only meets obvious physical and recreational needs of young people, but makes definite contributions to their economic, intellectual and spiritual morale.

The Association which adopts a policy—either because of difficult economic conditions or for any other reason—of carrying on without seeking financial support from the citizens is missing not only the possibility of relieving their treasury but also the best opportunity of a generation to educate people regarding the character values of the organization.

Every alert and forward-looking Secretary should secure a copy of the pamphlet—"Speaking up for Character-Building and Recreation," ten cents, from the Social Work Publicity Council, 130 East 22nd Street, New York. It is full of very fine material which can be used in literature and newspapers to interpret modernly the place and value of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Woodstock, Ontario, Association was successful in raising the splendid amount of $3,000.

Fort William, Ontario succeeded in securing the fine total of $5,000.

London, Ontario in their annual joint Y.M.C.A. —Y.W.C.A. campaign obtained $21,000 during their week's effort and will probably reach $23,000 when the follow-up is complete. This result is approximately 8% less than that of last year.

Brandon, Manitoba obtained at last report $3,200 with the probability of reaching $3,500. This is double what was secured in the previous year and will enable them to meet this year's budget requirements, but is not enough to cover a carried-over current deficit.

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, secured close to $5,000, an amount less than last year by about $700, but the result was very good in view of the fact that in four large subscriptions the amount contributed this year was $1,300 less than the preceding year.

Regina, Saskatchewan, in a combined subscription and membership campaign obtained the splendid total of $7,000 in subscriptions and $2,500 in memberships on an objective of $10,000.

Lethbridge, Alberta, conducted their first campaign after a year's use of the re-opened building, and slightly exceeded their objective of $5,000.

Calgary, Alberta raised over $23,000 in their annual canvass. $12,000 of the amount was for current debt subscribed by about thirty firms and individuals, payable over a three year period, and $11,000 for the present year's operating budget.

Edmonton, Alberta obtained approximately $5,500 which represents about $2,000 in excess of 1931 subscriptions.

Mr. Ballantyne of the National Council staff directed the campaigns at Brandon, Moose Jaw, Edmonton, Lethbridge and London.

In the early part of 1933 current expense campaigns will be undertaken at Toronto, Halifax, Windsor, Kitchener, Ottawa, Kingston, Montreal, St. Catharines, Sault Ste. Marie and other places.

H. B.

FOREIGN WORK

The Foreign Work campaign for 1932 is over. In spite of the increasing difficulties of the year and the loss of the services of Mr. Geldart we have been able to collect $32,061.73. In addition to this we are getting credit this year for a subscription of $4,000 reported in 1931 but not actually paid until 1932. This brings our total for the year up to $36,061.73, as compared with $42,477.71 in 1931. This falls considerably below our hopes but it represents a sacrificial effort on the part of a large number of loyal secretaries and laymen. We are also indebted to Col. G. W. Birks, Mr. Harmon, Mr. Wilbert Smith, and Dr. Geo. S. Patterson for their help in presenting the cause to many of our Associations. There is another encouraging feature in the fact that our costs of promotion and collection of these funds are about one-third of the previous year.

It now appears that total contributions to the International Committee will be about $600,000 and Mr. Harmon is determined to set his budget at a figure no higher than the amount received in 1932 He is also under the necessity of financing 1933 on a pay-as-you-go basis. With this in mind he is making a strenuous campaign to get underwriting both from local Associations and from larger givers on a basis of monthly payments. He has had considerable success in this respect, and if we are to play our part in this emergency we must begin at once to get pledges and agreements to make advances early in the year. We have eight Canadians on the Foreign Field and if we are to cover our full share of the cost of their maintenance we should raise $40.000 We believe that this can be done if all the Associations will bear a part of this responsibility. At present the weight of this project falls too heavily on a small number of Associations and in them on a comparatively small number of workers. Every member of boards of directors and every committee man should be challenged to make some contribution to this cause of which we are all so proud and to which we are all indebted.

E. M. B.